

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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"Common-sense" warden pushes moral rehabilitation as only true way to reform institutional prison system

ANGOLA, La. (BP) — When Burl Cain became a warden, his mother laid down the law.

"She told me, 'You have a wonderful opportunity. You have a chance to make a difference in people's lives. Don't blow

it,'" recalls Cain, warden of the Louisiana State Penitentiary in Angola.

"I'm just trying to do what she said, what I'm supposed to be doing."

And it is working so well Cain himself cannot believe it sometimes. Indeed, in the

nine months since Cain arrived at Louisiana's largest prison, violence is "significantly less," he says.

Revival — yes, revival — has broken out at the institution. "Is there revival at Angola?" Cain repeats when asked if he would use that word to characterize developments. "There is revival in Angola. Revival is happening. When you have over 300 people taking **Experiencing God** classes, that's revival. When you have inmates taking seminary extension courses, studying to be preachers, that's revival.

"There is definitely revival in Angola," Cain says. "Big time."

While such developments may amaze Cain and others at times, one cannot say the lifetime Louisiana Baptist is surprised by developments: After all, Cain does not consider the work to be his anyway. "This is God's program. It's his work. As long as he wants it to go on, it will."

At this point, it has been going on ever since Cain arrived at the Angola institution in January. At that time, the former agriculture teacher made a commitment.

"I believe moral rehabilitation is the only true rehabilitation there is," says Cain, a member of First Church, Zachary, and the longest-tenured warden in the state prison system at 14 years. "So I came here committed to do what I'm supposed to do by making Christianity available. I came to this committed to seeing their religious program at this institution flourish and to making sure no one got in the way of that. All I really did was remove the roadblocks."

Some may characterize Cain's actions as a little more proactive than just removing the roadblocks, however. He took several key steps, including the hiring of more chaplains. He authorized New Orleans Seminary classes on site. "We're

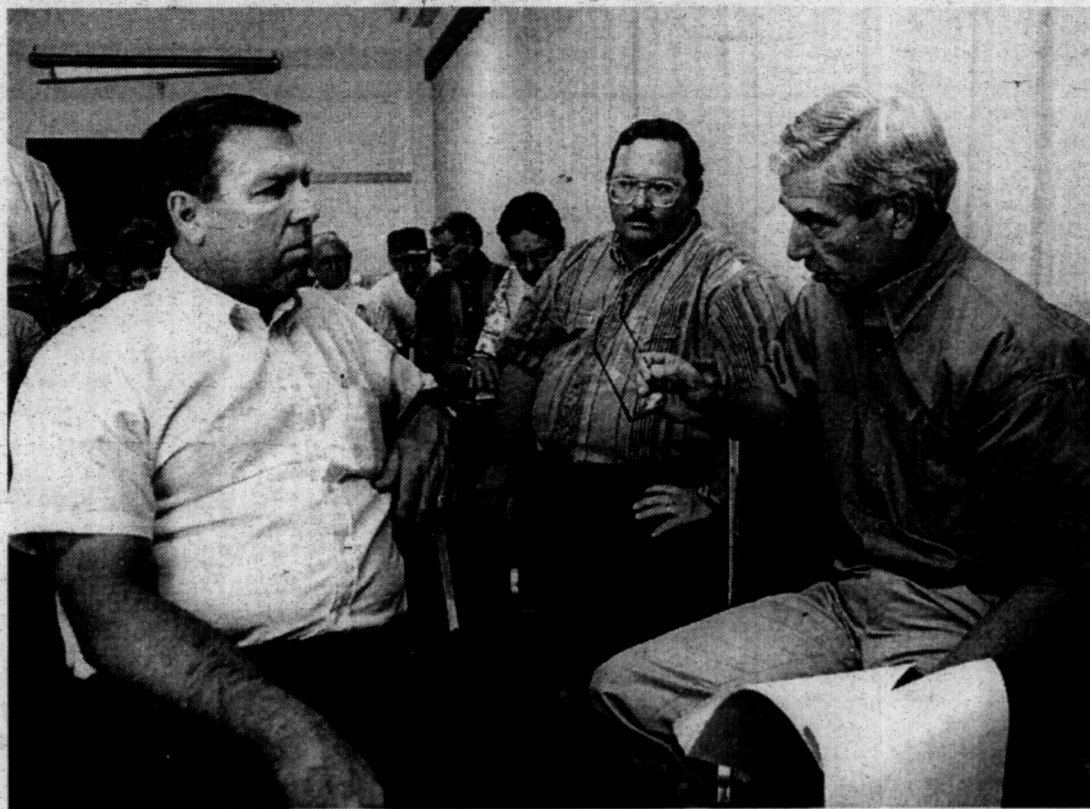
producing preachers now," he says. "And they'll have an impact with others."

Cain also led in the effort to start **Experiencing God** classes throughout the institution, even on death row, where such efforts were unprecedented. About 70 inmates were involved in the first round of classes. The number has more than tripled now. "And that's just going to keep multiplying as it goes," Cain says.

The response of inmates to the efforts has been tremendous, he notes.

"Look, it's easy to take the easy road. It's easy to lock 'em up and throw away the key. But you have to remember — these people have souls inside their bodies. They have souls."

That belief fuels all of Cain's actions as warden. "I run this prison on common sense and good judgement. It's the only way I know how to do it. So I do."



Prison needs

Paul Beths (left) of Etowah Church in Norman, Okla.; Mark Hollis (center), chaplain of Inmate Disciples Fellowship, a continuing education program of Southwestern Seminary; and Don Gibson (right), director of lay ministries for Texas Baptist Men, discuss prison chaplaincy issues before a recent class at Glorieta (N.M.) Conference Center in which volunteers are trained to minister to prisoners. Tom Turner, coordinator of prison ministries at the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, led the week-long class during discipleship and family ministry week. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

Prisons bureau seeking chaplains

The Federal Bureau of Prisons currently has a large number of openings for chaplains. Basic qualifications include:

- Bachelor's degree from accredited college
 - Master of Divinity degree from accredited theological seminary
 - Four years of experience in pastoral ministry
 - A current, valid state license to practice as a minister of the Gospel
- For more information, contact: The Federal Bureau of Prisons, Chaplaincy Division, 4200 North Point Parkway, Alpharetta, GA 30202-4174. Telephone: (770) 410-6489 or (770) 410-6496.

Somalia tragedy deepens

The tragic stories from strife-torn, starving Somalia only seem to get worse. A list of 120 alleged "Christians" scheduled for assassination by Moslem extremists in the African nation has been publicly circulating for months. A Christian leader was gunned down as he walked to work, and three believers were shot to death in Mogadishu. "How do you respond, in Christ, to 'hit lists' and the possibility that most of your Somali brothers and sisters in Christ living in that environment may die?" asked a Christian who works closely with the Somalis. His answer: "You drop to your knees in prayer." The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board (FMB), through its prayer strategy office, is involved in the prayer effort. "Within a few days, we will mobilize thousands of prayer warriors. Tell our Somali brothers and sisters of our eternal love and support," said an FMB message sent to believers in Somalia. The killing has stopped — for now. "There's no explanation other than divine intervention. There was no strategy to employ other than prayer," the worker said. Continue to pray for the Christians of Somalia, who remain in grave danger.

Freedom in Christ

Louise Cantrell never before had to protect someone from death by photography, but she was perfectly willing to do that for the nervous Vietnamese refugees she met at the Jacksonville, Fla., airport. Immigrants Hoa Huyen, her daughter, and her grandson were terrified by an old Vietnamese superstition that three people in a photograph foretells death, but Cantrell, a member of First Church, Jacksonville, assured them she would stand with them for the photograph. Today, thanks to Cantrell's Christian witness and the support of other church members, Hoa says, "I fear not anyone, anything." Cantrell helped Hoa understand the freedom Christianity brings from ancestor worship and superstition, and Hoa claimed Christ as her personal savior. "This lady has become a soul-winner, and the light of the Lord absolutely beams on her face," Cantrell said. Hoa has given up tobacco and alcohol, and her focus now is telling others how Jesus changed her life. "Every morning before I go to work, I and my daughter and grandson gather together for prayer," Hoa said.

Looking Back...

10 years ago

A campaign by layman C.A. Bozeman of Rolling Fork leads churches in Sharkey-Issaquena Association to be the first association in the Southern Baptist Convention to report 100% adoption of the new annuity plan for pastors.

20 years ago

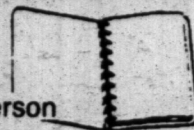
Members of Locust Street Church, McComb, vote to meet in an abandoned, city-owned movie theater for their long-planned revival after an early morning fire completely destroys the church's physical plant.

50 years ago

Delta supporters of the Mississippi College Enlargement Program brave inclement weather to meet at First Church, Greenwood, to hear an update on the campaign and make pledges on behalf of the Baptist-affiliated college.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson



A Baptist gathering

For 159 times Baptists in Mississippi have gathered as a convention. In the beginning, messengers were elected by the churches. There were no groups, no organizations, not even a church, which could force something on them. The power group was the elected messengers. Moreover, once the meeting was over, nothing they had decided was binding on the churches.

Suppose it was 1836 and you were getting ready for the new convention meeting. It would be in Washington, just a few miles northeast of Natchez.

Join us 100 years or so later in 1935 for the convention in Meridian. The Depression is still hanging on, the PWA is going full blast, and the CCC is off and running. D.M. Nelson is president of the convention, R.B. Gunter is the "statistical secretary," and Frank Moody Purser of Oxford will preach the sermon. The price of cotton was standing at eight cents a pound, trying for a comeback. Bread lines could still be seen

across our nation.

Governor Hugh White was laying an economic foundation with his BAWI (Balance Agriculture With Industry). The Baptist Record had just carried an article saying, "It is the firm purpose of Mississippi Baptists to pay our debts." The WMU came to the rescue and 2,500 women pledged a dollar per month as Mississippi Baptists clawed their way out of debt.

Now fast-forward another 60 years to 1995. The sons and daughters of another generation gather in the capitol city. Rex Yancey of First Church, Pascagoula, will be presiding; McComb's Jimmy Porter will preach the convention sermon. The election of officers will take place on Tuesday, and unlike several sister states, we have had no firm announcement of people running for the various offices.

The budget will be proposed and hopefully adopted. In what Mike Clingenpeel, editor of the Virginia Baptists' newspaper, calls the "battle for bucks," the state

conventions are looking at every line in the budget for additional revenue.

The "Covenant for a New Century" calls for the older, larger states to assume more financial responsibility for Home Mission ministries in their states. To do this, Mississippi has allocated \$249,530 to be used in these ministries. Budget officials expect the 1995 income to go above the regular budget which will allow about \$250,000 to flow on to the SBC to offset this amount.

Texas, facing a burgeoning population, will recommend \$1.5 million for new church starts which will be a 2.5% reduction of the SBC allocation. Oklahoma, facing similar challenges, has proposed a 2% reduction. These decreases do not spell a decreasing interest in mission work. If anything, they reveal a deepening mission awareness in our own homeland as well as the entire world. Churches are encouraged to elect their messengers for another gathering of Mississippi Baptists.

Guest Opinion...

Repent or perish

By Ron Kirkland

In the center of a society that is rapidly becoming more and more ungodly, where is God's church today? Why are large powerful churches with multi-media ministries and gifted speakers not making an impact on our society?

Is it perhaps that the church has become no more than a polite reflection of a secular society that no longer seriously regards God's claims upon itself?

I believe that we in the church have come to a critical point of "repent or perish." The social and political environment of many current Christian assemblies in our nation are unrecognizable as churches of God.

Would God recognize our lifestyles of excess and self-centered indulgence as living for him? Have we created an environment where proclamations of "cheap grace" have made churches havens for people who are not faithful to their marriage vows, who see nothing wrong in bathing themselves in the corruptive influences of Hollywood pornography, who believe that we are victims of circumstances rather than sinners in need of confession and cleansing, who believe that both natural and unnatural desires of fleshly lust and pleasure are God-given urges to which we

must submit helplessly?

Homosexuality, promiscuity, and child-murdering abortion have become protected "rights" and even God's people are infected with these and other corruptive lifestyles.

To cope with the distress of our day, we seek counsel and help from various secular sources and even ridiculous television talk shows. In the meantime, we and our children confess that we are too bored to care what the Word of God has to say about our lives.

Bible study attracts no crowds to church and even the Sunday School hour has become a "quickie" devotional leaving more time to spend in more "relevant" discussion about "real life." We are far more interested in hearing what the writers say about the Bible than we are in reading the text for ourselves.

Henry Blackaby asked a question in *Fresh Encounter* during the session about holy living: "Other than occasional attendance at what we call church, what distinguishes our lives from the unholy lives of non-Christians?"

I have a hard time answering that question. Church membership apparently now is viewed primarily as an entitlement to be served rather than a responsibility

to serve.

There is a great temptation for church leaders to conform to the world and compromise convictions to reach more people.

Success in the church is being measured by leaders in the same way as secular success.

Reaching numerical goals and storing up earthly treasure has become the standard measuring device for churches as well as other earthly institutions. Bottom lines are as powerful an influence on church policy as it is in a board room.

Churches which allow the competition for the "membership market" to lead them into the realm of submission to these desires of the flesh and away from God's biblical expectations will cease to be the church of God.

The institutions may continue to be popular gathering places for Christian entertainment, but where sin is indulged, the Bible ignored, and success and self-centered tribute honored and exalted above humble obedience to God, there is no church.

God help us all when that happens! Let us repent before we perish.

Kirkland is pastor of First Church, Amory.

"MAMA, ARE WE BEING SEQUESTERED?"



THE FRAGMENTS

In the ditch

In the "highways and hedges" of life you will find Christianity continuing its onward march. There are still people in the ditch, still a lot of passers-by, and still some good Samaritans.

Waldine McMichael, a member of Greens Creek Church, Petal, read a recent story in *The Baptist Record* of some poor Russian women who sacrificed to build their church. Waldine is retired and on a fixed income with little to spare. She didn't just pass by; instead she sent \$100 to help the Russian women in building the church.

In West Laurel, the church Brotherhood viewed the video magazine, "Vessels." This is video news, produced quarterly by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, showing what Mississippi volunteers are doing here and around the world. The West Laurel men voted that night to give \$300 to state missions.

A Baptist college professor recently shared with us the exciting experience of leading a student to follow Christ. In another city a

young boy accepted Christ as his Savior; his Dad was touched and both were baptized a few weeks later.

Dozens of our churches are responding to community needs: feeding the hungry, visiting the sick, and comforting the sorrowing. Our Brotherhood disaster relief van has been on standby in the aftermath of Hurricane Opal.

Ewilda Fancher, state Prayer Ministry Coordinator, is retiring and recently gave her final report. There are Prayer Coordinators now in eight of the state's nine ministry areas; 52 associations have coordinators; and 354 churches reported a prayer coordinator. The PrayerLine here in the Baptist Building receives between 140-160 calls per month. Indeed, prayer changes things.

Sure, some will walk by, look, and move on, but some will head for the ministry in the ditch. Thank God we seem to have so many who know not only the comfort of the padded pew, but also welcome the discomfort of the ditch.

— GH

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION • 150 YEARS

150

SBC COOPERATIVE PROGRAM • \$150 MILLION

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'95 Pastor's Conference features Texas pastor, other noted preachers

"Faithful to the Finish" is the theme of the 1995 Mississippi Baptist Pastor's Conference, scheduled for Monday, Oct. 30, in the sanctuary of First Church, Jackson. Sessions will begin at 1 p.m. and 6:45 p.m.

Dean Register, conference president and pastor of Temple Church, Hattiesburg, predicted a large turnout of pastors and church staff members to hear "a variety of gifted preachers from Mississippi and around the nation."

Tony Evans, pastor of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship in Dallas and a featured speaker on such programs as Focus on the Family and The Urban Alternative, will bring the concluding

message at the evening session.

The conference will include Calvin Miller from Southwestern-Seminary in Fort Worth; Larry Wynn, vice-president of the Southern Baptist Convention and pastor of Hebron Church in Dacula, Ga.; and Hattiesburg evangelist Roc Collins.

Also scheduled to speak are former Mississippi pastor Tommy Vinson, now pastor of Leawood Church in Tenn.; and Randall Turner, pastor of First Church, Laurel, and past president of the Mississippi Baptist Pastor's Conference.

Register said the theme of the conference is drawn from 2 Tim. 4:7.

"God has called pastors to continue in faithfulness even through trials and tribulations. Pastors today need a fellowship of mutual encouragement. I hope every pastor will find refreshment and renewal from the Lord during this year's conference," he said.



Register



Wynn



Evans



Miller



Collins



Vinson



Turner

Afternoon session

1:00	Welcome	Dean Register
	Congregational praise	Larry Black
1:10	Message	Randall Turner
1:45	Congregational Praise	Larry Black
	Special music	Worship Team
		Temple Church, Hattiesburg
2:00	Message	Tommy Vinson
2:35	Election of officers	
2:50	Congregational praise	Larry Black
	Special music	Worship Team
		Temple Church, Hattiesburg
3:00	Message	Roc Collins
3:35	Prayer Testimony	Wayne Ross
3:50	Offering	Worship Team
		Temple Church, Hattiesburg
4:00	Message	Calvin Miller
4:50	Benediction	

Evening session

6:45	Celebration Choir	Temple Church, Hattiesburg
7:00	Message	Larry Wynn
7:35	Offering	Celebration Choir
		Temple Church, Hattiesburg
7:55	Message	Tony Evans
8:45	Benediction	

Lay Missions Conference set for Oct. 30

The annual Lay Missions Conference immediately preceding the Mississippi Baptist Convention will take place on Monday, Oct. 30, at First Church, Jackson.

A series of small group conferences on ministry will be featured, along with a missions banquet that will include music and entertainment.

The theme of this year's conference is "New Beginnings."

The small group sessions begin at 3 p.m. Topics include: Mississippi River Ministry; Addictive Behavior; New Ministries; Partnership Missions; Volunteers in

Missions; and Ministering Through Support Groups.

Mission fellowship groups will also meet at 3 p.m.: Agricultural Missions; Campers on Mission; Church Renewal; Construction Missions; and Educational Missions.

The banquet portion of the conference begins at 5 p.m. James D. Williams, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Brotherhood Commission in Memphis, will be featured speaker.

Dan McBride, a musician and humorist from Jacksonville, Texas, will entertain. Allen Harris,

minister of music at North Oxford Church, Oxford, will lead music.

Childcare will be provided by reservation only for birth through age 5.

Cost of the banquet is \$7.50 per person. Deadline for ticket purchase is Oct. 25.

For more information, to purchase banquet tickets, or to inquire about childcare, contact the Brotherhood Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. Telephone: (601) 968-3800, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

The Baptist Record

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Mississippi Baptists to meet for 160th time Oct. 31-Nov. 1

By Tim Nicholas

The 160th annual session of the Mississippi Baptist Convention will take place Oct. 31-Nov. 1, at First Church, Jackson.

Business items include election of a convention president and consideration of a \$23,280,983 Cooperative Program (CP) budget for 1996—a 2.98% increase over the 1995 budget.

A total of 37% of the proposed CP budget will go to Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) causes outside the state.

The 1996 budget has one deviation from the norm: A sum of \$249,530 in the SBC portion will remain in Mississippi.

That is the approximate amount which ordinarily goes to the Home Mission Board (HMB) and is returned to Mississippi for joint state-HMB projects.

The amount still going to the HMB will remain the same as in the 1995 budget. This new system allows the HMB to use that equal amount of money for pioneer work instead of returning it to Mississippi.

Clarke College, the former Baptist-affiliated junior college in Newton, may come up for discussion.

The committee charged with disposing of the Clarke property had several offers for purchase, but money for purchase did not accompany the offers.

Committee chairman Larry Otis of Tupelo plans to make a report on the matter to the Executive Committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board prior to the convention.

"We are planning to present a proposal to sell the college in parcels," said Otis.

That proposal will be in the hands of the Executive Committee to forward to the full board if it chooses, and then perhaps to the convention itself. The actual decision, however, is in the hands of the Executive Committee.

"We have individuals interested in buying the majority of the property," said Otis.

Scheduled business includes consideration of any resolutions brought by messengers. There is no requirement for submission of resolutions prior to the convention itself.

Featured speakers for the convention include outgoing president Rex Yancey, pastor of First Church, Pascagoula, who is completing his second one-year term. He will deliver the president's address during the first session, Oct. 31.

David Dykes, pastor of Green Acres Church, Tyler, Texas, will speak during the second session on Tuesday.

Bill Causey, MBCB executive director-treasurer, will speak

Tuesday evening.

The convention sermon will be delivered on Wednesday morning, Nov. 1, by Jimmy Porter, pastor of First Church, McComb. The closing message on Wednesday afternoon will be by Steve Bennett, pastor of Colonial Hills Church, Southaven.

The Bible Treasure messages, a devotional series delivered during each of the morning and afternoon sessions, will be by Roy Fish, professor of evangelism at Southwestern Seminary. Fish said his messages will deal with basic disciplines of the Christian life.

Witnessing testimonies will be presented during the first four sessions by Clark Stewart, pastor of Harmony Church, Crystal Springs; Richard Ford, member of South Louisville Church, Louisville; Stan Fornea, pastor of Morrison Heights Church, Clinton; and Burnice Havard, pastor of Larue Church, Perkinston.

Musicians for the convention include Eva Hart, pianist; and Glenn Crosthwait, organist, both on the music staff of First Church, Jackson; the choirs of First Church, Pascagoula, and First Church, McComb; One Voice, a music/drama ensemble; the Mississippi Singing Churchmen; and the William Carey College Chorale.



Causey



Yancey



Dykes



Porter



Bennett



Fish

Nobles stays in federal custody; Oct. 31 competency hearing set

By William H. Perkins Jr.

A federal judge in Jackson on Oct. 11 denied former Mississippi College President Lewis Nobles' request to be released from jail while he awaits an Oct. 31 competency hearing. The hearing is to determine whether he can be tried on charges he allegedly embezzled money from the Baptist-affiliated school in Clinton.

U.S. District Judge William Barbour also denied a motion filed by Nobles asking for the return of more than \$25,000 in cash that was in his possession when he was arrested on a federal fugitive warrant in San Francisco on Jan. 26, 1995.

Barbour deferred a ruling on whether the federal government can claim a portion of the cash as bail bond forfeiture, and he denied a motion by Mississippi College to intervene in court proceedings dealing with the cash.

FBI agents tracked Nobles to California after he failed to appear at a Jan. 26 hearing in Jackson in connection with a 20-count federal indictment charging him with diverting at least \$1.7 million in donations to the school. College officials have contended that more

than \$3 million may be missing.

Nobles allegedly attempted suicide in the San Francisco hotel room by swallowing poison as FBI agents closed in on him. He was rushed to a nearby hospital, where he underwent two surgeries and suffered a brain disorder.

He was eventually transferred to a federal prison hospital in Missouri for extended recovery and mental evaluation. He was released from the prison hospital earlier this summer and is presently being held in the Madison County Jail in Canton, which houses federal prisoners under contract.

Barbour expressed concern that Nobles might again disappear or attempt suicide if released to a halfway house in Jackson for further treatment, as he requested in his motion.

"I have problems, frankly, with the request. What assurance would the court have that being in a halfway house would prevent him from fleeing the jurisdiction of this court?" Barbour asked.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Jack Lacy argued against returning the cash to Nobles, contending that

the money is evidence in another criminal proceeding involving Nobles' alleged flight to avoid prosecution.

Barbour agreed, ruling that the "actual cash money is of evidentiary value." However, he deferred a decision on whether the federal government can claim \$15,000 of the cash to pay Nobles' bail bond forfeiture in connection with his Jan. 26 disappearance.

Attorney Danny Mulholland of Jackson, representing Mississippi College, asked that the court allow the school to intervene in federal court proceedings to determine the distribution of the cash, but Barbour denied the request.

"Mississippi College has no standing to participate in this criminal proceeding," Barbour ruled.

Nobles, who appeared frail and unshaven at an earlier hearing when he was transferred to Mississippi from the federal prison hospital, looked healthier and had gained weight. His ill-fitting prison garb from the earlier hearing had been replaced with a blue sport coat, grey pants, white dress shirt, and striped tie.

Lee Ezell to keynote Women's Conference

International author and lecturer Lee Ezell of California will be the featured speaker at the 1995 Women's Conference Nov. 10-11, 1995, at First Church, Jackson.

Her award-winning books include **The Cinderella Syndrome, Private Obsessions, Pills for Parents in Pain, The Missing Piece, and Will the Real Me Please Stand Up.**

Ezell's powerful personal story includes growing up with alcoholic parents in Philadelphia's inner city, marrying a widower with young children, and reuniting with a daughter she gave up for adoption after being raped at age 18.

Special music will be presented at the conference by Christian vocalists Rita Wood Sweatt, whose husband Lloyd is pastor of Duck Hill Church, Duck Hill; and Martha Waller Richardson, whose husband is pastor of First Church, Greenville.

The women's conference is being sponsored by the Counseling & Family Ministry and

the Woman's Missionary Union of First Church, Jackson.

The conference, which is open to all women, will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 10, in Fellowship Hall East at First Church of Jackson, and conclude at noon on Saturday, Nov. 11. No childcare is available. Security will be provided. **Ezell**

Cost is \$3 per person if pre-registered, and \$5 at the door. Light refreshments will be served, as well as a continental breakfast on Saturday morning. To pre-register, contact Mary Belle Lundquist at (601) 956-7157.

For more information, contact the Counseling & Family Ministry office of First Church, Jackson, at (601) 949-1949, or the Woman's Missionary Union office at (601) 949-1908.



SBTS to end social work degree, still seeking Carver transfer

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — Trustees of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary unanimously decided to discontinue the master of social work degree and continue seeking a home for the Carver School of Social Work, apparently rejecting a transfer offer from Samford University.

In their regular board meeting, Oct. 9-10, at the Louisville, Ky., campus, trustees spent an hour in a closed-door session before

deciding to discontinue the social work program, based "on the realization that considerable differences exist in the structures, processes, and issues of social work education and theological studies."

An offer from Samford, a Baptist-affiliated college in Birmingham, Ala., to transfer the school was announced last month as the solution for the Carver school's status at Southern, but

negotiations apparently hit a snag. Southern's trustees, in a statement for which officials refused to provide any details, said conversations with Samford "have raised the possibility that it may in the final analysis not be appropriate to transfer the school (to Samford)."

Pressed in a news conference following the trustee meeting, seminary President R. Albert Mohler Jr. would not give any details about the problem with the Samford offer although, he said, there was "not a mutual understanding."

Speaking to the matter of discontinuing the social work program, Mohler said there was a "basic conflict" between theological education and social work "world views," including social work's code of ethics regarding homosexuality.

In other action, trustees elected two new trustees — pastors **Thomas Atwood, of Oxford,** and **James M. "Buddy" Gray, of Birmingham** — to fill slots vacated by trustees who moved out of their respective states. The new trustees will serve until the SBC annual meeting in June 1996.

The 60-member board also heard reports the seminary finished its 1994-95 year "fiscally sound" although there were shortfalls in student fees, endowment income, and gifts.

Seminary officials said student fee shortfalls last year, the result of declining enrollment, should be alleviated this year in part because 200 non-Southern Baptist students were expected but

340 have registered. Non-Southern Baptist students pay considerably more in registration fees.

However, both Mohler and Richard D. White, trustee chairman, also said "conservative" trustees need to increase their level of support for the seminary.

Noting the change to a "conservative" direction in the SBC, White said conservative trustees have been "slower to step up to

the plate" in financial support. He urged trustees to personally get involved in promoting and supporting the institution.

Officials said less than half the board's trustees contributed \$45,000 to the school last year, less than half the \$100,000 goal for trustees. Alumni gifts also are down, trustee leaders said, and there is a need to tap a "new pool" of givers.

Dilday to keynote CBF's Nov. 4 annual meeting in Jackson

Russell Dilday, interim dean of the George W. Truett Theological Seminary in Waco, Texas, will be the keynote speaker for the annual meeting of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) of Mississippi on Saturday, Nov. 4, at Northminster Church, Jackson.

Dilday, former president of Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, is also the distinguished professor of homiletics and a special assistant to the president at Baylor University in Waco.

Dilday's address will be delivered during the morning session of the annual meeting, followed by an informal question and answer period immediately after lunch.

The business session will include election of officers and coordinating council members; financial and committee reports;

and recommendations for bylaw revisions.

Registration will open at 9:15 a.m., with the meeting scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. and adjourn at 2:20 p.m. Childcare will be provided for birth through sixth grade.

A luncheon will be held at the church on Saturday at a cost of \$10 per person. Tickets to the luncheon must be purchased by the Oct. 27 deadline through the CBF-Mississippi office at P.O. Box 3668, Jackson, MS 39207.

For more information, contact Gene Triggs at (601) 355-7824.



New BSU directors OK'd by Executive Committee

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board has recently employed two new Baptist student directors for Itawamba and Holmes Community colleges.



Duncan

David K. Duncan, 26, has been employed to lead the Baptist Student Union at Itawamba Community College at Fulton.

A graduate of Northeast Community College and Mississippi College, Duncan earned the master of arts in Christian education degree in May with an emphasis in campus ministry from New Orleans Seminary.

He was minister of youth at First Church, Pearl, 1990-92; at First Church, Booneville, summer of 1992; and at First Church, Bay

St. Louis, 1993.

Duncan was state BSU vice president, 1989-90.

Michael Kelly has been employed to direct Baptist student work at Holmes Community College at Goodman.



Kelly

A graduate of Holmes and Mississippi State University, Kelly has been minister of youth at Duck Hill Church in Montgomery County and youth and children's interim minister at Williamsville Church in Attala County.

Kelly has served as a student summer missionary to Wyoming and to Vancouver, Canada.

He is married to the former Tanya Holley of Vaiden.

Monday, October 30

MBCB committees, various locations, 9 a.m.

Photo sessions for statewide Baptist pictorial (PCA International, Inc.), 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Education Building-West, First Church, Jackson. No appointment necessary. Contact Louis Aldridge at (601) 842-3569.

MBCB board meeting, Baptist Building Skyroom, 10 a.m.

Mississippi Baptist Religious Education Association fall luncheon, 11:30 a.m., Colonial Heights Church, Jackson. \$10 per person reservations required. Contact David Webb at (601) 798-6470.

Ministers' Wives Conference, 1 p.m., First Church, Jackson. Childcare reservations due by Oct. 23. Contact MBCB Church Administration/Pastoral Ministries Dept. at (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

Pastor's Conference, sessions begin at 1:00 p.m. and 6:45 p.m., First Church, Jackson.

Lay Missions Conference, 3 p.m., First Church, Jackson. Missions banquet, 5 p.m., \$7.50 per person. Reservations required by Oct. 25. Preschool provision by reservation only. Contact MBCB Brotherhood Dept. at (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

Tuesday, October 31

Annuitants breakfast, 7:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall East at First Church, Jackson. Contact Robin Nichols at (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

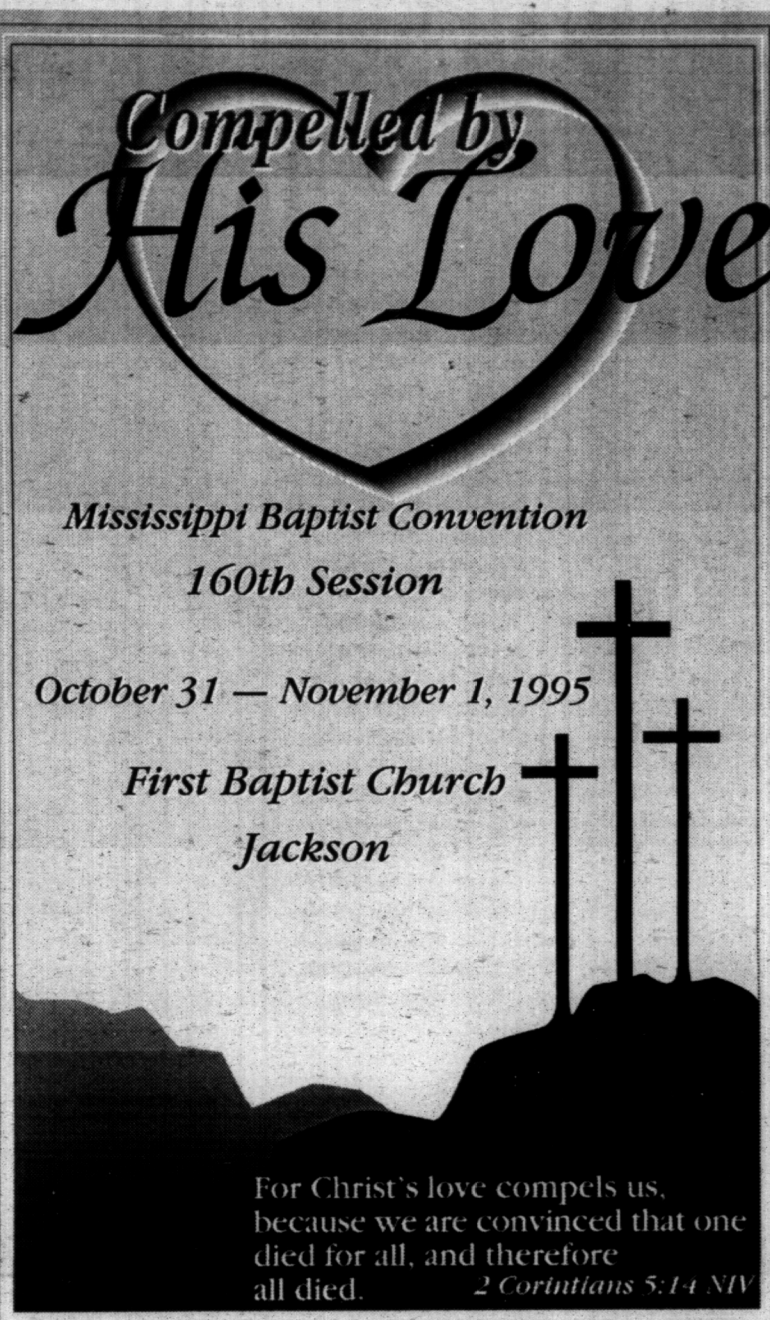
Florida Baptist Theological College alumni meeting, 7:30 a.m., Baptist Building Chapel. Continental breakfast \$4.50 per person.

Mississippi College Christian Service alumni, 7:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall East (Sections A-D) at First Church, Jackson. Continental breakfast. Contact MC alumni office at (601) 925-3208.

First convention session, 8:45 a.m., First Church, Jackson, sanctuary.

Photo sessions for statewide Baptist pictorial (PCA International, Inc.), 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Education Building-West, First Church, Jackson. No appointment necessary. Contact Louis Aldridge at (601) 842-3569.

Mississippi College School of Nursing Health Fair, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Chapel Dining Room at First Church, Jackson. Screenings include heart disease, cancer, stress, cholesterol (nominal fee), diabetes, nutrition, body fat analysis, and other health-related



issues. Flu shots will be administered for a nominal fee.

New Orleans Seminary alumni, 12 noon, Ramada Coliseum (Empire Ballroom), Jackson. Luncheon \$13 per person. Reservations required by Oct. 25. Contact Kenny Digby at (601) 862-4723.

Southwestern Seminary alumni, 12 noon, Calvary Church, Jackson. Luncheon \$10 per person. Reservations required by Oct. 27. Contact Bill Kirkpatrick at (601) 843-2507.

Southern Seminary alumni, 12 noon, Baptist Building Skyroom. Luncheon \$8.50 per person. Contact Duke Wheeler at (601) 326-9333.

Second convention session, 1:30 p.m., First Church, Jackson, sanctuary.

Blue Mountain College alumni, 5 p.m., Broadmoor Church, Jackson. Dinner \$5 per person. Tickets available from college's convention display booth. Contact Wayne Marshall at (601) 895-1900.

Luther Rice Seminary alumni, 5 p.m., Western Sizzlin restaurant, I-55 North in Jackson. Dutch treat. Contact Gregg Thomas at (601) 896-3796.

Chaplains, 5 p.m., Baptist Building Skyroom. For banquet reservations, contact Richard Brogan by Oct. 24 at (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

Third convention session, 6:30 p.m., First Church, Jackson, sanctuary.

William Carey College alumni fellowship, immediately following adjournment of evening session, Baptist Building Chapel. Contact Donna Wheeler, (601) 582-6107.

Wednesday, Nov. 1

Bivocational Ministers Fellowship, 7 a.m., Admiral Benbow Inn, Jackson. Complimentary breakfast. No preregistration necessary. Contact Matt Buckles at (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

Clarke College alumni, 7 a.m., Fellowship Hall East, First Church, Jackson. Continental breakfast (no charge). Contact Juanita West at (601) 683-6838.

Photo sessions for statewide Baptist pictorial (PCA International, Inc.), 8 a.m.-3 p.m., Education Building-West, First Church, Jackson. No appointment necessary. Contact Louis Aldridge at (601) 842-3569.

Fourth convention session, 8:45 a.m., First Church, Jackson, sanctuary.

Fifth convention session, 1:20 p.m., First Church, Jackson, sanctuary.

Registration

Registration for the 1995 Mississippi Baptist Convention will be on the second floor above the State Street entrance of First Church, Jackson. Volunteers from First Church, Jackson, will begin registering messengers at 12 noon on Monday, Oct. 30. Registration will begin at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 31, and Wednesday, Nov. 1. Registration will close at the beginning of each evening session and at 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday.

Convention Office

The convention office will be located across from the registration area (see above). Incoming messages received at (601) 949-1924 will be posted at the convention office. An outgoing telephone line will be available for credit card calls only. Lost and Found will be located at the convention office.

Parking

Parking is limited in the vicinity of First Church, Jackson. Convention attendees are encouraged to park at the Mississippi State Fairgrounds (Jefferson Street entrance) near the Super Slide. Shuttle vans will transport attendees to the church, beginning with the Pastor's Conference and continuing through all convention sessions. Due to heavy traffic, attendees are urged to use the Skywalk to cross North State Street at the church. Attendees are cautioned against overparking on meters and illegal parking. Tickets cannot be forgiven and improperly parked automobiles may be towed.

Display area

The display area and Baptist Book Store will be located at the same site as previous conventions: Fellowship Hall West at First Church, Jackson.

Childcare

Preschool childcare is available for ages birth through five years, beginning with the Pastor's Conference and continuing through all convention sessions. Preschool area is located street-level off North State Street. Procedure is as follows: 1. Register each child by name, parent, and church. 2. Obtain security card for each child at registration. 3. Label all belongings. 4. For infants, advise childcare workers of feeding schedule. 5. Childcare opens 20 minutes before each session starts and closes 20 minutes after each session ends. Children may remain in the preschool area during the convention lunch break on Tuesday, Oct. 31, if parents provide lunch for each of their children.



New trustees serve NOBTS

Nine new trustees were welcomed in September to the New Orleans Seminary's board of trustees. The new trustees are (left to right): front row, Michael Claunch of Slidell, La.; Pat Crawford of Baton Rouge, La.; Don Davidson of Danville, Va.; **Albert H. McMullen, pastor of First Church, Stonewall**; James B. Dickson of Corsicana, Texas; second row, Tony Lambert of Omaha, Neb.; Joyce L. Shelby of Spencer, Okla.; Wendell Wood of Burton, Mich.; and Daniel Ferguson of Hinton, W.Va. Along with the 31 other trustees, the new trustees met with Landrum Leavell II, interim president (back, center).

Four with Mississippi ties recognized, named emeritus missionaries

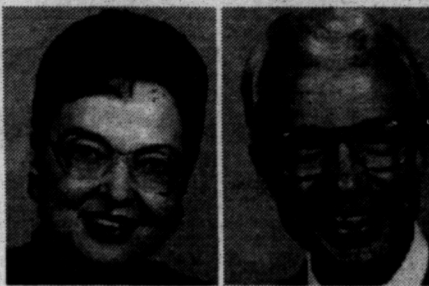
Four retiring missionaries with Mississippi ties were named emeritus missionaries in a special recognition service on Oct. 9. Jerry Rankin, president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, conducted the service, held at First Church, Richmond, Va.

The emeritus missionaries are: Margaret Fairburn, Emogene Harris, and Rosalie and Bob Hunt.

Fairburn was born in Tyler-town. A graduate of Clarke College and Mississippi College, she was also educated at Golden Gate and Southeastern seminaries. Prior to her appointment as a missionary to Liberia in 1963, she served as Young Woman's Auxiliary director for the Woman's Missionary Union of Oklahoma, and as a secretary for the Colorado Baptist General Convention. She will retire Nov. 1.

A native of Johns, Harris considers Brandon her hometown. She was graduated from the Mississippi State College for Women (now Mississippi University for Women) and New Orleans Seminary. After working as a teacher in Columbia schools, she was appointed missionary to Nigeria in 1960. She served in several missionary capacities in that country until her Aug. 1, 1995, retirement.

Rosalie Hall Hunt is a native of



Rosalie Hunt Bob Hunt

Honolulu, Hawaii. She was educated at (among other schools) Blue Mountain College and New Orleans Seminary. Prior to her appointment as a foreign missionary, she was a summer missionary for Kansas Convention, BSU summer missionary in Hawaii, piano teacher in Meridian, a teacher in Booneville, and a teacher and counselor in Boaz, Ala.

Along with her husband Bob, Rosalie served as a missionary in Taiwan and Hong Kong. The Hunts later served as Cooperative Services International representatives to Asia. They transferred to the Philippines, and went on to serve in Australia, India, Malaysia, and Singapore. They ended their term of service in the Philippines, and retired on Oct. 15.

Bob Hunt is an Alabama native and graduate of Howard College (now Samford University) and New Orleans Seminary. Before his appointment to foreign mission service, he served as Home Mission Board summer missionary in Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Alabama. He also pastored Janice Church, Brooklyn; Hebron Church, Meridian; was a student worker at Northeast Mississippi Community College in Booneville; and was associate pastor and youth minister in Boaz, Ala. He and his wife Rosalie were appointed to the Foreign Mission Board in 1961.

Celebrating Cooperative Program month... State pastors talk of blessings brought by commitment to CP

By David Michel

The Cooperative Program has always held a unique place in the hearts of Southern Baptists. Often quoted is the phrase: "The Cooperative Program is not a sacred cow, but rather a sacred how."

True enough — Southern Baptists formed a convention in 1845 for conducting world mission efforts, but they were largely ineffective until after 1925 when they adopted a financial agreement called the Cooperative Program (CP).

Each October churches pause to observe Cooperative Program Month. What can we learn during this emphasis about the relationship that has developed since 1925 between congregations and the Cooperative Program?

The top 100 churches in the Southern Baptist Convention which gave the most last year through the CP were recently listed in a report from the Stewardship Commission in Nashville. Nine of these churches are from Mississippi, and we rejoice in the generosity which they express. (See sidebar.)

A common denominator in each of the churches appears to be a long-standing congregational commitment to missions.

Steve Hurt, minister of education at Calvary Church, Tupelo, said, "Calvary was born in a missions mode in 1935. The first thing I learned as a staff member was the importance of missions support."

Calvary has just completed rebuilding after a tragic fire, and it is currently without a full-time pastor. In spite of these challenges, Hurt said, "The church determined that Cooperative Program giving would not suffer. Our building is not the most important priority we have."

Gene Henderson, pastor of First Church of Brandon, indicated that missions commitment in his congregation has not wavered in recent years. He said, "We keep our eyes focused on missions, not circumstances!"

Another factor which influences churches to give sacrificially through the CP is faith. David Raddin, pastor of First Church, Yazoo City, declared, "Cooperative Program giving is a matter of the heart: the heart of those who give, and the heart of those who receive."

Richard Powell was excited because Colonial Heights Church in Jackson, where he pastors, felt convicted by the Lord this past year to increase missions giving. He said, "We're not just sending

money, we're called to win souls to Christ. It's not just fund-raising — it's a passion!"

moor Church in Jackson, said, "The Cooperative Program is a spiritual telescope which provides our church a worldview. Our folks seek to turn coins into caring!"

CP giving has never been easy. "Our Cooperative Program commitment comes from a long-standing commitment to missions which... must be continually established by the people of the church," observed Raddin.

As your church observes Cooperative Program Month you may want to measure your faith, excitement, and determination to make a difference in the world. Without personal sacrifice and commitment to mission support the Cooperative Program loses its strength and appeal.

Michel is director, MBCB's Stewardship Department.

MISSISSIPPI CHURCHES among the top 100 SBC churches in Cooperative Program giving

Rank	Church	CP dollar gifts
3.	First, Jackson	\$547,550
12.	Broadmoor, Jackson	392,735
17.	First, Brandon	358,183
40.	Calvary, Tupelo	259,224
57.	Colonial Heights, Jackson	228,545
75.	First, Yazoo City	212,456
81.	Harrisburg, Tupelo	207,626
85.	Temple, Hattiesburg	205,182
96.	Morrison Heights, Clinton	197,685

CP giving appears to have a transforming influence on churches which are deeply involved. Most of the churches listed give 20% or more of their undesignated gifts through the CP.

Jim Futral, pastor of Broad-

moor Church in Jackson, said, "The Cooperative Program is a spiritual telescope which provides our church a worldview. Our folks seek to turn coins into caring!"

Michel is director, MBCB's Stewardship Department.



LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

What are the chances of my 54-year-old divorced daughter having a happy marriage to a 30-year-old divorced man she has been dating for two years?

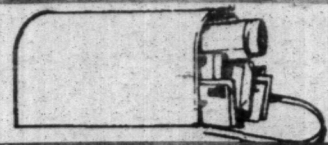
Pray for her as she makes this decision.

My brother is deeply involved in the white supremacy movement, which I believe is contrary to Christianity and the Bible. How can I minister to him?

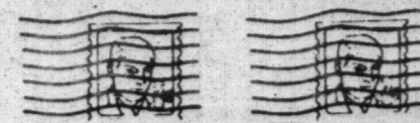
There is definitely a large gap between the ages, and it is more common for an older, divorced man to marry a younger woman. Hopefully, the age difference has become a strong issue after two years of dating and has been discussed. Your daughter having a happy marriage depends not so much on the age difference but on the level of communication between the two of them. They should talk frankly not only about the age difference, but also about their values, traditions, expectations, etc. The 24-year gap in age means they are coming from two different generations, and there is much to separate them in tastes, opinions, and beliefs. However, if they have bathed their relationship in prayer and kept themselves pure, they stand a much better chance of weathering the storms they will encounter in marriage. Be honest with your daughter and share your concerns in a spirit of love.

Just because you disagree with your brother doesn't mean you can't minister to him. The depth of a relationship is enhanced when two people share similar beliefs and ideologies, but your relationship with him should be grounded in who he is and not what he believes. You may not be as close as you would like, but your brother should know that you care about him as a person. This is the second great commandment, "To love your neighbor as yourself." By loving him as Christ loves you, you release yourself from judging him by his actions. By doing so, you allow the Holy Spirit the opportunity to transform both your lives. By being the example of Christ — who did not always agree with others but still took time to give them worth and attention — we allow God to work in our lives.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.



Letters to the editor



Disturbing items

Editor:

I am a lifelong Southern Baptist and have served in numerous places of leadership in my local church and association.

Two news releases carried in **The Baptist Record** on Oct. 5 disturb me very much. First, the Baptist Sunday School Board (BSSB) announced a \$200,000 contribution toward the establishment of a chair at Southwestern Seminary in honor of James T. Draper Jr., president of the BSSB. Second, the BSSB announced a 7% increase in literature costs because of escalating paper cost.

I am aware that the BSSB receives no Cooperative Program funds. However, church literature is purchased with dollars put in the church offering plate. Why not apply this kind of donated money toward off-setting these literature costs? Southwestern Seminary is already one of our most heavily-endowed seminaries. This seems to me to be mismanagement of dollars that come from the local offering plate.

Do we wonder why the people in the pew have real serious questions about our SBC leadership and our state trustees?

George Holifield
Biloxi

Clarifying terms

Editor:

Regarding Atwell Scott's letter of Sept. 28:

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Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed because of homosexuality, not because of abortions.

In the Bible, there are two instances of infanticide which can be compared to abortions of this day: Pharaoh's order to kill Jewish male babies (Ex. 1:15-22), and Herod's order to kill all children under 2 years of age (Matt. 2:16). God did not punish anybody then — but he will, eventually.

Jesus taught his disciples that it would have been good for Judas Iscariot if he had been aborted. Notice the wording — Jesus did not say, "It had been good for that man if he had not been conceived." He said, "It had been good for that man if he had not been born." There is a vast difference.

Every conception ends in one of four ways: 1) on-time birth, as Jesus; 2) the untimely birth in Job 3:16, a still birth ("never saw light"); 3) the untimely birth of Psalm 58:8, a miscarriage ("as a snail melteth"); or 4) the untimely birth of Ecclesiastes 6:3, an abortion ("no burial"). No one ever has a funeral service for aborted elements.

In every still birth, miscarriage, and abortion, the baby's body dies, but [his] soul is safe in God's hand in heaven (Job 12:10) — that's the good news. The bad news is that in battle the soldier's body dies but not every dead soldier's soul is in heaven — that depends on whether he has been saved (born again). A long life (without an abortion) that ends in hell is far worse than an aborted life that ends in heaven. Anyone who decides for or against an abortion is trying to play God.

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God's commandments "Thou shalt not commit adultery" (Ex. 20:14) and "flee fornication" (1 Cor. 6:25) are clear; when they are obeyed, the abortion issue will disappear.

D. Frank Roberts
Olive Branch

More Big Brother?

Editor:

I am still trying to recover from the Southern Baptist Convention's apologizing for slavery. Now SBC President Jim Henry and Christian Life Commission Executive Director Richard D. Land are supporting HR 497 that establishes a federal gaming commission.

It looks to me that leaders of the Southern Baptist Convention have no idea of what is going on in the world. They must have their heads in the sand, as all we need is one more federal program. They should realize that if they cannot do anything with the various states, they certainly cannot do anything with the federal government. This will just amount to another commission so several hundred people would be employed, have big pensions, and chauffeur limousines. They will be much more accessible to organized crime than state-controlled commissions.

Kenneth Reynolds
Greenwood

It happens here, too

Editor:

Regarding the article in the Sept. 28 edition, "Your children aren't possessed; they're teens..."

Writer Charles Willis quotes child and family therapist Barry McCarty as joking, "The emotionally intense ages of adolescence — 13 to 15 — may lead some parents to wonder if their children are possessed by evil forces." Then he goes on to share some excellent information about the problems of growing up.

I urge your readers not to think all of the problems your youngsters face today, however, are simply due to "hormones going crazy" or some other physical or

emotional factors.

Recently we dealt with a woman who began to dabble in witchcraft at age 9. By age 10 she was a full member of an organized coven. Soon she was participating in Satan worship on a regular basis. These rituals are evil and sick almost beyond belief. During this time she was also a baptized Southern Baptist church member and attended church regularly. Her parents never knew what was wrong.

When we first met her two years ago she was an emotional, physical, and spiritual basket case. Several months ago her pastor, my wife, and I had the opportunity to lead her to Jesus. What a difference! Jesus is still in the life-changing, bondage-breaking business! I wish you could hear her testimony.

For further insight, I highly recommend **The Seduction of Our Children** by Neil T. Anderson, for concerned parents. It is available at our Baptist Book Stores.

By the way, this woman's experience took place over the past 20 years as she grew up in Mississippi, not California or New York.

John Landrum
Chaplain to the Mississippi
Beach
Gulfport

Preparing for service

Editor:

I write to express my gratitude to so many wonderful Baptists in the Jackson area who have helped us in our preparations for missionary service. We have been commissioned as missionaries to the Albanian people in Macedonia by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and we will depart for Tirana, Albania, on Oct. 10. During our few weeks here in Jackson visiting my wife's parents, many of the people from Northminster Church and Parkway Church have helped us in our preparations.

I wish to thank especially Roger Paynter of Northminster, who has ministered to us richly through his preaching. Thanks

also to Holly Redford, who is the moderator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Mississippi. We appreciate also Mary Foose, who has taken us under her wing at Northminster. Bethel Ferguson of Parkway has ministered to us as well.

It is our mission to share the love of Jesus Christ and the power of the gospel with the people of Albania and Macedonia. We encourage Mississippi Baptists to pray for us as we go.

Richard and Martha Shaw
CBF missionaries to Albanians
in Macedonia

Thanks for guidance

Editor:

On Oct. 18, my family and I [moved] to Baton Rouge, La., to serve as the pastor of the Oakcrest Church. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all Mississippi Baptists for the investment they have made in our lives.

While in college, Mississippi Baptists helped underwrite my education at Mississippi College. Two churches, the Poplar Springs Church and the Sardis Church of Hazlehurst, allowed me to serve as their pastor. What these folks put up with! I say thanks to both of them.

In 1988, I entered the pastorate full-time at Liberty Church in Carrollton. Words cannot express my deep and undying affection for these fine people. By the Lord's grace, they nurtured me until I began to look like a pastor. They "taught me the ropes" and cut me down when I hung myself. Thank you for your love, Liberty.

I also had the pleasure to serve the Hebron Church in Grenada. These folks followed my leadership to build a much-needed educational wing. They also allowed me the time to study and hone my preaching skills. I don't believe they really knew what a laboratory they were for this embryonic theologian. Thanks for your patience and fellowship.

Lastly, to the East Louisville Church I want to say, "Thank God for you!" Seldom does a pastor encounter such a wonderful mix of heart and soul in a congregation. The short time we shared together will be remembered with tenderness and joy.

May God continue to bless this entire Magnolia State with a harvest of souls, prosperity, and good health. Mississippi will always be home to us.

Keith Powell, pastor
Oakcrest Church
Baton Rouge, La.

Correction

Due to an editing error on page 9 of the Oct. 12 issue, Edward L. Phillips was incorrectly listed as former pastor of Foxworth Church, Foxworth. He was minister of music and youth at the church.

Finding the best insurance is a matter of dollars & sense. Church Mutual can help.

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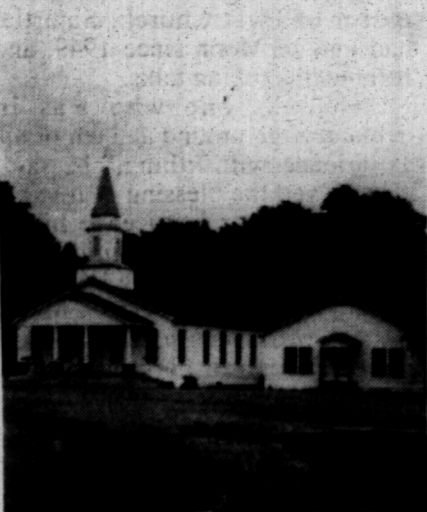
Just for the Record



GAs of Carterville Church, Petal, held a recognition tea on Aug. 20. Twenty-six girls were present to receive their Mission Adventures badges. Rhea Sloan, Kandice Tims, and Kristi Rounsaville (at left) were honored for having received all six Mission Adventures badges. Leland Hogan is pastor and Jayne Richards is GA director.



The women's softball team of Plainway Church, Laurel, won the Mississippi Southern Baptist State Class "A" Softball tournament this year. Team members (from left) are: standing, Karen Goodwin, Jana Byrd, Tammy Parrish, Beverly Herrington, Amy Dearman, Kary Sims, Kristy Herrington; kneeling, Patrice Stanard, Kathy Eaves, Stacy Ishee, Donna Smith, Louise Seabrook, and Lawanda Brewer. Kent W. Megehee is pastor.



New Hope Church, Sumrall, will observe its 162nd anniversary on Oct. 22. Morning worship services will begin at 10 a.m. Joe Cothen of Slidell, La., and Byron Mathis of Long Beach will be the guest speakers. There will be a noon meal in the fellowship hall. Afternoon services will follow the luncheon. Singing will be directed by Owen Girley. George Gerald Aultman is interim pastor.

he will hold a county-wide evening worship on the Pontotoc County court square. Murray's appearance is sponsored by the Pontotoc County Citizens for School Prayer. For more information, call the organization at (601) 489-6516.

William Carey College officials announced record student enrollment totals for its Mississippi campuses as fall registration recently ended. Carey President Jim Edwards indicated there was a 4.3% overall increase in student headcount enrollment for the Hattiesburg and Gulf Coast area programs. Fall 1995 enrollment is currently 1,828, compared to 1,753 in 1994 and 1,725 in 1993. "We have 113 religion majors, which is an all-time high," stated Larry Kennedy, dean of the Cooper School of Missions and Biblical Studies at William Carey.

Wheeler Grove Church, Corinth, will present the Hoppers in a gospel concert on Oct. 22 at 7 p.m. Kara Blackard is pastor.

Mississippi College will hold its annual Preview Day for prospective students and their parents on Oct. 27. The day's activities will begin with registration and breakfast at 8 a.m. in the B.C. Rogers Student Center on campus. The students will then be able to attend a class of their choice. A tour of the campus and luncheon will also be offered. For more information, call the MC Office of Admissions at (800) 738-1236.

The 32nd annual Santa Rosa Church reunion will be held at 1 p.m. on Nov. 12 at the Santa Rosa YMCA. In case of bad weather, First Church, Nicholson, will be the meeting site. Those attending should bring a picnic lunch.

Glendale Church, Leland, hosted its first Marriage Enrichment Conference in September. Ten couples participated in the weekend of fellowship and conference sessions led by Roy and Kay Hightower of Georgetown, Tenn. Keith Dendy is Glendale pastor.

North Winona Church, Winona, announced recently that a total of 26 baptisms have been recorded, largely as a result of the church's children's and youth ministries. A continuation of the spirit of revival is planned for Oct. 22-25, with preaching by Terry Long, pastor.

Billy Graham once said that he believed that 90% of church members had just enough religion that they had been inoculated from the real thing.

- ☞ Are we converting men to our creeds or to Christ?
- ☞ Is it our "acceptance of Him" — or His acceptance of us — that really matters?
- ☞ Are we producing people who are more committed to the church rather than to the Lord of the church?
- ☞ Just how saved are we?

For a free copy of the message, "Counterfeit Christianity," write: Calvary Baptist Church Tape Ministry • 1309 Church St., Columbia, MS 39429



First Church, Richland, recently held its GA Recognition Service. The theme was "My Promise to God." GAs honored (from left) are: back row, Rachel Sasser, Natalie Burns, Sissy Wallace, Candace Sasser, and Stephanie Jones; middle row, Mary Connell, Melissa Martin, Marla Turner, Emily Wood, Jessica Williams, Tracey Harpe, Kandis Shelton, Allison Kettelman, and Mandy Holder; front row, Katie Wood, Kristi Easterling, Amber Johnson, Courtney Burns, Marlee Johnson, and Bethany Boteler; and Carolyn Boteler, Terri Wood, Laurie Pierce, Clara Shelton, Shannon Craft, Sissy Williams, Debbie Davis, Jennifer James, and Sandy Ashley.

Harmony Church, Mize, established in 1832, recently held a dedication service for four Sunday School rooms and a baptistry. During the time of construction, an adult accepted Jesus as her Sav-

ior, and on Aug. 27 she became the first person to be baptized in the new baptistry. In 1979 the church was enlarged with a kitchen and fellowship area. Jerry L. Westbrooks is pastor.

Homecomings

Zion Hill, Alpine: Oct. 29; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; Worship, 11; John Stevens, guest speaker; noon lunch in fellowship hall; afternoon singing with The Masters, 1:30.

Zion Hill, Wesson (Copiah): Oct. 29; 112th anniversary; worship, 10:45 a.m.; covered dish lunch, noon; Tony Hinton, music; Daryle Oster, pastor.

Bethel (Rankin): Oct. 22; 85th anniversary; worship, 11 a.m.; fellowship luncheon, 12:15 p.m.; celebration service, 1:30 p.m.; Dudley Plaisance Jr., pastor.

Georgetown (Copiah): Oct. 29; worship, 11 a.m.; Marcus Finch, guest speaker; lunch, noon; Celoria Brothers, William Carey College, 1:15 p.m. singing; Gene Erwin, pastor.

Holcomb (North Central): Oct. 22; 80th anniversary; worship, 11 a.m.; Buster Thomas,

Friendship East Church, guest speaker; covered dish dinner following services; Randy Ashley, pastor.

Highland, Jackson: Oct. 29; 11 a.m.; Sam Creel, Brandon, guest speaker; covered dish lunch, noon; no night services; Cliff Shipp, pastor.

Pleasant Hill, Carthage: Oct. 22; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11; Max Jones, guest speaker; Paul G. Cain, pastor.

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Antioch, Florence: Oct. 22-26; 7 p.m. nightly; Farris Smith, evangelist; R.C. Rice, interim pastor.

First, Polkville (Smith): Oct. 22-25; Sunday, dinner on the grounds following worship; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Jerry Smith, Water Valley, evangelist; Allen Hill, Taylorsville, music; Jeff Thomas, pastor.

North Greenwood (Leflore): Oct. 22-25; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 12 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Dean Register, Hattiesburg, evangelist; David Oliver, Germantown, Tenn., music; Jim Phillips, pastor.

Calvary, Silver Creek: Oct. 22-25; Sunday, Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; 11 a.m. worship, noon fellowship, and 1 p.m. service; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Keith Wallace, Bogue Chitto, evangelist; Bryan Parker, Columbia, music; Leon Wallace, pastor.

First, Flora: Oct. 29-Nov. 1; 7 nightly; John Bramlett, Mem-

phis, evangelist; Sam Puckett, Jackson, music; Rickey Blythe, pastor.

Thrasher, Booneville: Oct. 23-27; 7 nightly; Kara Blackard, Corinth, evangelist; Gerald and Cindy Simmons, Gulfport, music; Charles E. Smith Jr., pastor.

Montgomery, Summit: Oct. 22-25; Sunday, Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., noon dinner on the grounds, and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 nightly; John Wilton, Long Beach, evangelist; Phillip Alford, McComb, music; Bill Miller, pastor.

Grandview, Pearl: Oct. 22-25; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. worship; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Barry Ward, Puckett, evangelist; Donnie and Cynthia Stuart, music; Wade Chappell, pastor.

Easthaven, Richland: Oct. 22-25; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Keith Harper, Clinton, evangelist; Lewis Oswalt, Clinton, music; Roy J. Maine Jr., pastor.

Galilee, Brandon: Oct. 22-25; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; John Barnes, Smith County, evangelist; Ray Gates, music; Danny Berry, pastor.

Carmel, Monticello: Oct. 22-25; Sunday 11 a.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Gary Bowlin, Brandon, evangelist; Ken Hedgepeth, Hattiesburg, music; Ted Bowlin, pastor.

Thursday, October 19, 1995

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

Names in the News

MIDWATERS, South Africa (BP) — Glenda Middleton, 56, a Foreign Mission Board (FMB) missionary to Lesotho, died in an



Middleton

accident Sept. 22 while driving alone behind her husband to a prayer retreat in Midwaters, South Africa. Middleton, from Bernice, La., apparently lost control of her four-wheel-drive vehicle while going over a series of humps in the terrain on the paved road, said John Gordy, who directs FMB work in South Africa. Besides her husband, she is survived by her daughter Vicki Blackwell of Bossier City, La., and son Carl of Hawkins, Texas.

FORT WORTH (BP) — William L. Hendricks, formerly senior professor of Christian theology at Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky., has accepted the position of director of the Baptist studies program and lecturer in theology at Texas Christian University's Brite Divinity School, Fort Worth, Texas, effective Aug. 15, 1996. Hendricks was on Southern's faculty from 1984 until his retirement in December 1994.

David Young, director of Instrumental Music at William Carey College, spent two months recently coordinating and directing the music program at Grand Cayman First Baptist Church in the Cayman Islands. Randall

VonKanel, a graduate of Carey, is the pastor of the Cayman church which includes members from more than 35 countries.

Cheryl Diane Steffensrud of Clinton has been awarded the Ann Wilson Clark Memorial Scholarship at Mississippi College, the highest scholarship given by the MC School of Education. Steffensrud currently serves as a student teacher in the third grade at Clinton's Northside Elementary School. She is the daughter of Richard and Faye Steffensrud of Arlington, Texas.



Steffensrud

Several William Carey College students performed recently at the reception for Mississippi Governor Kirk Fordice. Instrumental students Jennifer Lyon-Cook (flute), Zeke Guin (guitar) and Harold Martin (percussion) provided music during the event held at the home of Greg and Susie Rustin in Laurel. Fordice was in Laurel for the dedication and opening of Free State Homes Manufacturing, Ltd., which will provide 60-65 immediate jobs in the area.

Jack Gregory, pastor of Carey Chapel Church in Mount Pleasant, was recently honored by the church with a pastor's appreciation day. The church presented a walnut engraved eagle plaque to Gre-



First Church, Sumner, recently ordained three new deacons. They are (left to right): Whit Walters, Ben Pryor, and Ray Powell.



Mary Sue Powell (right) was recently honored by First Church, Beaumont, for her 60 years of ministry through music. The long-time member of the congregation was given a plaque by the church. A luncheon was held in her honor, and flowers were provided by the town's mayor. Julius Harbison (left) is pastor.

gory, and hosted Bill Foote, former interim pastor, as the day's guest speaker.

Retired pastor Moon dies, remembered as a "tither"

Lester Elijah Moon Sr., 85, a retired Baptist minister and farmer, died of heart failure Oct. 14 at his home in Minter City.

Services were held Oct. 16 at Ruleville Church with burial in the Drew cemetery.

Moon was a Canton native. He was the widower of Oklana Moon and Mary Mitchell Moon.

He had served as pastor of the following churches: Lowland Chapel, Bugar Den community; Center Field Church, Ruleville; Mount Vernon Church; Bethel Church, Drew; as well as associate pastor of Ruleville Church.

Every year he farmed, he gave the proceeds of the sale of his first bale of cotton to his church, said his daughter Rachel Patterson of Ridgeland.

"That was part of his tithing, and if he made more, he gave

more," she said. "... He did a lot of talks on tithing around the community in other churches.... That was years ago, yet people still remember him because he made such a dynamic impression."

James Allgood of Vaughan, pastor of First Church, Satartia, had known Moon since 1949, and recalled his tithing talks.

"He was one who was in demand to go around and tell of his experience with tithing," he said. "He proved the blessing of it to his neighbors... the Lord gave him a good crop right in the middle of people who were making failures."

In addition to Patterson, Moon is survived by; his son L.E. Moon Jr., of Ruleville; half sister Zola Johnson of Raleigh; half brother Joe Williams of Jackson; eight grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

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Uniform No partiality



By Andy Brasher
Acts 10:1 — 11:18

In the South, a name means everything. If one is blessed by birth to have inherited a name that has a history of importance, a certain level of partiality is extended to him. Judging others on the basis of a particular last name is ludicrous. Yet, this is a part of our Southern "gentry" culture.

Socially and economically, we call this the "good-ole boy" network, in which favors are passed to those privileged few. In all honesty, partiality is a softer word for prejudice.

Thank goodness God operates on an entirely different level; he is no respecter of persons. God treats each person the same; he exemplifies no partiality. Salvation for all and to all is the message of this week's lesson. The key thought is this, "God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him" (Acts 10:34-35).

Cornelius was, as Scripture indicates, a believing, uncircumcised Gentile and a centurion in the Roman army. Luke reports that Cornelius was a "devout man who feared God with all his household, gave many alms to the Jewish people, and prayed to God continually." Evidently, Cornelius was a Jewish sympathizer and a practicing Jew in terms of worship (10:3).

It was during his 3 p.m. prayer that Cornelius experienced a vision from God. In the vision, he was told to send for a man named Peter. Presumably, Cornelius had heard of the witness of Peter and the teachings of this new Jewish cult concerning the resurrection of Jesus the Nazarene. Interestingly, in the vision, God told Cornelius that his prayers and alms were a memorial before God. This is not to imply that his works had earned him salvation, but because of his faith in God, his works had been recognized by God.

On the very next day, during his noon prayer, Peter fell asleep and envisioned unclean animals, and a voice saying "kill and eat." During this state, Peter argued with God that he, an orthodox Jew, would never consume anything unclean. God told Peter that what He has cleansed no longer should be considered unholy (10:9-16). In conjunction with Peter's dream, the men sent from Cornelius arrived. Still perplexed from his dream, Peter greeted his guests and questioned them concerning their visit. The men instructed Peter to go with them to the city of Caesarea and to the home of a centurion named Cornelius. The next morning, Peter arose and went with them (10:24).

As Peter entered the home, a number of Gentiles had assembled there. Cornelius and Peter both knew that it was unlawful for a Jew to enter the home of an unclean foreigner, but without hesitation Peter entered and realized the significance of his dream (10:25-28). Peter stated to those who had gathered, "God has shown me that I should not call anyone unholy or unclean."

Peter asked Cornelius why he was summoned, and Cornelius began to tell Peter of his vision. Peter recognized that his encounter with Cornelius was directed by the hand of God (10:33-34). With boldness, Peter preached the gospel to all those present. While Peter was preaching, the Holy Spirit began to move, convict, and anoint those who listened and believed the message of the resurrected Jesus (10:44). The Jewish Christians, who had accompanied Peter, were amazed that "their" God would save and anoint foreigners (10:45). Upon their conversion and anointing, baptism was administered (10:47-48).

Upon returning home to Jerusalem, many Christian Jews refused to accept the new Gentile converts (11:2-3). Peter defended his preaching to the Gentiles as being providentially directed (10:4-17). Peter ended his argument by posing this question: "If God has therefore given to them the same gift as he gave to us also after believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in the Lord's way?"

In God's eyes, the only partiality extended is to those who have accepted Christ as their Lord and Savior.

Brasher is pastor of Como Church, Como.

Bible Book A matter of standards



By Larry McDonald
Ezra 9, 10

The pastor was visiting the fourth-grade Sunday School class to talk about marriage as part of the lesson. He asked the class, "What does God say about marriage?"

Immediately one boy replied, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

Most people who are married identify with the truthfulness of this humorous story because no matter how prepared we thought we were for marriage, we still did not know what we were getting ourselves into. Though this is true for all marriages, it's even more so for marriages between believers and non-believers. Some enter dating relationships and eventually marriage thinking they can be a missionary to the non-believing partner. But this seldom happens. Often the believing spouse's faith falters over the years because of not having the support of their mate. Much of this heartache could have been avoided if God's Word had been followed in not being "yoked together with unbelievers" (2 Cor 6:14).

In seeking to rebuild the moral and spiritual lives of the Jewish people, Ezra encountered a compromising situation where the Jews were marrying people from other countries who worshipped false gods (9:1-2). The issue was not one of racial intermarriage.

There were several important men of faith in the Old Testament who had non-Israelite wives (Gen. 16:3; 41:45; Ex. 2:21; Num. 12:1; 2 Sam. 3:3; Ruth). So the issue was one involving a compromise of faith and practice because those other groups were involved in "detestable practices" (9:1). The intermarriage would result in adopting the lifestyles of those who did not know God.

Ezra did not try to sidestep or water down this issue. He met it head on and acknowledged the wrong and guilt of the people (9:10-14a). He brought forth the biblical guidelines they had failed to take seriously (9:11-12; cf. Lev. 18:25ff; 2 Kings 16:3; Deut. 7:1-3; 11:8; 23:6; 2 Kings 21:16; Isa. 1:19). In acknowledging their shortcomings, Ezra knew they had failed to meet God's righteous standard and deserved his anger and judgment. All they could do was to throw themselves upon the mercy of God.

This sin broke Ezra's heart. He threw himself down before God praying, confessing, and weeping. A large crowd gathered around Ezra. The crowd also saw their sin and bitterly wept before God in confession (10:1-2). This led to repentance as they took steps to address the entire nation about the sin (10:9-11). The people received that message from Ezra (10:12). They identified the ones who had fallen into the idolatry from the unbelieving marriages and took steps to correct the injustice (10:18-44).

There is a difficult issue to wrestle with in this passage regarding the Jewish people divorcing the unbelieving spouse. Mervin Breneman comments on this issue by saying these events are "descriptive, not prescriptive. They cannot be taken as authorization for divorcing an unbelieving spouse. In 1 Corinthians 7:12-16, Paul exhorts one who has an unbelieving partner not to divorce; but if the unbelieving partner leaves, the believer is not bound in such circumstances. Most Christians leaders agree that each case must be studied carefully in light of Scripture and in light of its own particular situation."

We must not let the complexity of this last issue cause us to miss the important truth clearly taught in this passage. Marriage is ordained by God. He intended for believers to marry only believers. Therefore, their marriage relationship could be a reflection and testimony of the love God has for us.

McDonald is pastor of Castlewoods Church, Brandon.

Life and Work How should I live?



By Bob Rogers
Ephesians 5

The day before I wrote this lesson, I used the phrase "I'm telling you." Immediately my 3-year-old son said, "I'm telling you, read me this book." It struck me how much my son imitates what I do and say.

Paul knew how children imitate their parents when he wrote, "Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children" (Eph. 5:1). We are to follow God as closely as a little boy follows his daddy. But how?

Live in love (v. 2). In the Old Testament, a sacrificial offering that pleased the Lord was described as having a pleasant aroma (Gen. 8:21; Ex. 19:18, Lev. 1:9). For the Christian, a life characterized by love is "a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God" (v. 2).

What drives you to action: revenge, jealousy, anger, or love? Love is the crowning Christian virtue. It is the first fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22) and the unifying element in the Christian wardrobe (Col. 3:14).

Live in purity (v. 3). Verse 3 continues the theme of Christian living by turning attention to a lifestyle of purity, which is so important to the Christian's reputation that "there must not be even a hint" of impurity (v. 3).

Three types of impurity are to be avoided: sexual immorality, greed, and obscene speech.

"Sexual immorality" (v. 3) translates the Greek word *porneia*, which means any sex outside of the husband-wife relationship.

Greed is a worship of possessions rather than God, and "such a man is an idolater" (v. 5).

"Obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking... are out of place" (v. 4).

Paul stated that "no immoral, impure, or greedy person... has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God" (v. 5). This is not a contradiction of his words about salvation by grace in 2:8-9. Paul is referring here to our lost condition before salvation, not deeds that must be avoided to keep salvation. This thought is clarified in 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, where he said that although the Corinthian Christians were once wicked people who could not inherit the kingdom; they were justified and sanctified by the name of Jesus.

Live in the light (vv. 8-14). "Live as children of light" (v. 8). If we imitate God with our lives, we need not be embarrassed for all to see what we do. Paul named the fruit of the light as "all goodness, righteousness and truth" (v. 9).

In contrast to the fruit of the light, deeds done in the darkness are "fruitless" (v. 11). Paul said these deeds are "shameful even to mention" (v. 12).

When the sun goes down, criminals go to work. They love the dark because they cannot be seen. If a Christian constantly works through manipulation, gossip, kickbacks, and other unseen activities, he is no better than a criminal, and one day he will be "exposed by the light" (v. 13).

Live in wisdom (vv. 15-17). Paul summed up this passage on how we should live by encouraging us to "be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise" (v. 15). He then gave examples of wise living.

Verse 16 gives one example of wise living: "making the most of every opportunity" (NIV), or "redeeming the time" (KJV). The word is translated "redeeming" in the KJV because it means to "buy back." The word translated "time" in the KJV, *kairos*, does not mean time in general, but means a fixed, definite period of time, or "opportunity," as translated in the NIV.

The "days are evil," Paul says, so when an opportunity comes to witness, or help someone in need, or take a stand for right, make the most of it, because you can't get that time back later.

Verse 17 gives another example of wise living: "understand what the Lord's will is." The Bible is full of statements about God's will. It is his will for people to be saved (2 Peter 3:9), for us to avoid sexual immorality (1 Thes. 4:3), and for us to always give thanks (1 Thes. 5:18), among other things. The wise Christian will take care to know and do these things.

Class discussion: Bring a daily newspaper to class, and find headlines that describe ways Christians should or should not live.

Rogers is pastor of First Church, Poplarville.

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**JULY 1, 1995-
JULY 31, 1995**

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(to be continued)



Mrs. Mary Posey opens a retirement gift from her BCV family. During Mary's 7 years with The Baptist Children's Village she served as Child Care Worker on our Dickerson Place Campus and on our India Nunnery Campus in the Emergency Care and Chemical Dependency Programs. Thank you, Mary, for allowing God to use you in this ministry.



Ladies from Indian Springs Baptist Church, Jones Association, model vests they made for our young ladies. Thank you, Ladies, for such a practical and generous gift.

capsules

SBC LEADERS PROTEST DISNEY ACTION FOR HOMOSEXUAL LIVE-INS: NASHVILLE (BP) — A Walt Disney Co. decision to provide health insurance to live-in partners of homosexual employees is stirring strong criticism from key Southern Baptist Convention leaders. "This is extremely disturbing to Southern Baptists across the country," said Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the SBC Executive Committee. "It's a travesty that Disney is no longer a pro-family industry." Disney, he reminded, "built its reputation and business around family values." The new Disney policy, announced in a newsletter to the company's 70,000 employees the week of Oct. 2, will go into effect Jan. 1. While covering live-in partners of homosexuals, it will not cover live-in partners of heterosexuals. A report in the Associated Press quoted Disney spokesman John Dreyer as saying, "We made this decision because it brings our health benefits in line with our corporate nondiscrimination policy." Asked how the decision will affect the Disney image, Dreyer would only say, "We are a family oriented company." Said Chapman, "Disney has distorted the definition of 'family.' I pray that the American people will challenge this attempt to redefine the family." Richard Land, executive director of the SBC Christian Life Commission, said, "This lamentable decision by Disney is yet one more indication of the radical gay rights movement's efforts to get preferential treatment for its lifestyle."

MONTANA BAPTISTS REACH 1ST \$1 MILLION BUDGET: GREAT FALLS, Mont. (BP) — Montana Baptists' first \$1 million budget was approved during the annual meeting of the Montana Southern Baptist Fellowship, Oct. 4-5, at Westside Baptist Church, Great Falls. The 1996 budget — \$1,001,369 — was approved by 125 messengers representing the 136 churches, missions, preaching points, and Bible studies in the state. The 1995 budget is \$960,459. In Cooperative Program giving by Montana Baptists, 22%, unchanged from 1995, will be forwarded to Southern Baptist national and international missions and ministries. The budgeted 22% for the coming year is \$61,449.

TEXAS ASSOCIATION EXPELS CHURCH FOR ORDAINING HOMOSEXUAL DEACON: DALLAS (BP) — Austin Baptist Association at its annual meeting ousted University Baptist Church, Austin, Texas, for ordaining a homosexual as a deacon last year. Following a recommendation by the association's credentials committee, messengers voted 108-55 at the Oct. 9 meeting at First Church, Pflugerville, Texas, to disfellowship the church. University Church's pastor, Larry Bethune, declined to reveal the deacon's name, citing his right to privacy. He said the deacon is in a "long-term continuing relationship" with another man, and Bethune was aware of his homosexuality before the ordination. University Church is dually aligned with the Southern Baptist Convention and with American Baptist Churches in the USA. The church also is affiliated with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and the Alliance of Baptists.

HMB APPOINTS MISSIONARIES, DISCUSSES SBC TRANSITION: ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP) — The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board executive committee approved 16 new missionaries and heard an initial report from the committee charged with overseeing the HMB's merger with the Radio and Television and Brotherhood commissions. The missionaries will serve in seven states as church planters and in ministry positions. They join nearly 5,000 home missionaries who serve in partnership between the HMB and state Baptist conventions, associations, and local churches.

BILLY GRAHAM ANNOUNCES CRUSADE IN CHARLOTTE: MINNEAPOLIS (ABP) — Billy Graham will hold a crusade in Charlotte, N.C., next September — the evangelist's first in his hometown in almost 25 years. Graham, 77, plans to preach at the now-unfinished Carolina Panthers stadium Sept. 26-29. "Billy Graham has been a model in ministry for me for many years," said Charles Page, pastor of First Church of Charlotte. "My excitement in his coming to Charlotte for a crusade in 1996 is overflowing," added Page, a member of the interdenominational advisory committee which issued the invitation. Following a summer of rest and recuperation after a brief hospitalization in June, Graham is scheduled to hold a crusade in Sacramento, Calif., Oct. 18-22. It will be his first appearance since speaking to the Southern Baptist Convention June 22 in Atlanta. The evangelist also plans to lead crusades in four cities in Australia and New Zealand in February and March and in Minneapolis/St. Paul next June.

SWBTS FALL ENROLLMENT DECLINES: FORT WORTH (ABP) — Enrollment at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary continued to drop this fall, more than two years after the abrupt firing of President Russell Dilday disrupted life at the Southern Baptist Convention's flagship school. The total number of students enrolled for fall classes at the seminary in Fort Worth is 3,025, down 7% from the 3,254 enrolled in the fall of 1994. The number of new students entering the seminary also declined. The 539 new students fell one short of the 540 who entered the seminary last fall. One bright spot for the seminary's new president Ken Hemphill is growth in the seven off-campus centers offered by Southwestern. Total off-campus enrollment this fall is 104, more than twice the 50 students in off-campus centers last fall.

In bomb's wake, Okla. City church grieves, ministers

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP) — April 19, 1995. On that Wednesday morning six months ago, Oklahoma City and the nation were transformed when the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building was blown up by terrorists.

The nation watched as Oklahomans struggled to deal with the worst terrorist act ever committed on U.S. soil.

The building is now leveled, the streets are reopened, many businesses are resuming operations.

Healing has begun but may take years for many people. Family members will soon face their first major holidays without loved ones present, which can lead to severe depression.

There were 168 men, women, and children killed in the blast; 168 mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers, grandparents, friends, and loved ones.

Two Oklahoma City Baptist church buildings were damaged in the blast: Downtown Church had

its windows blown out; First Church received more than \$500,000 in structural damages, and costs for other repairs are still being tallied.

First Church hopes to complete all repairs and move back into the sanctuary by Oct. 29, with repairs to the chapel due for completion by mid-November.

The church hit hardest in human terms, though, was 12 miles from the bomb site.

First Church of Nicoma Park, in far eastern metropolitan Oklahoma City, is not the largest church in the area; in fact, there are 17 churches in Capital Baptist Association with a larger Sunday school attendance. But, the church lost five members April 19, more than any other church.

Among those killed were three men, a young mother and her 2-year-old son.

Pastor Mark Estep said the tragedy is not something that goes away.

"There is not a Sunday goes by, I don't think, where our congregation doesn't remember," he said. "When the family members walk in we are reminded of the tragedy."

All of the surviving family members have remained faithful church members, he said.

"I am in constant admiration of the people who lost loved ones, because they have maintained their faith," he said. "They are not angry at God; in fact, this has strengthened their faith."

"I don't know if I could live it. I have often said I would rather preach about faith than live it, because living it is harder."

The church family also has responded well, Estep said.

"God's brought us through it," he said. "All things are not good, but all things work together for good. We wouldn't wish this tragedy on anybody, but we have to make the best of it.... If it weren't for God's grace, we wouldn't be able to go on. I don't know how people without the Lord can handle tragedy."



OKLAHOMA CITY — This photo, taken only days after the April 19 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, shows damage to the stained glass windows of First Church there. To date, the blast's total damage to the church building has cost in excess of \$500,000. The damage to the hearts of its members, however, can never be counted. (BP photo)

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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FCO DATE UG MAAE, P GFTARM CADE UR FCO
EPB AS FTAXWDO; PRE CO NRAIOFC FCOK FCPF
FTXGF UR CUK.

RPCXK ARO: GOJOR

This week's clue: E equals D.

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke Six: Thirty-Seven.

Baptist Record

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